

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) Flexible, longitudinal heating mat, constituted by a first and a second track, formed by a metal film, intended to be supplied with electric current, by their respective upstream ends (C, D) and which are trapped between two flexible, insulating sheets (1, 1'), characterized in that:

- the first and second metal tracks are heating and extend in associated manner transversely over virtually the whole width of the mat and are distributed periodically in the longitudinal direction,

- the downstream ends (D, E) of the two tracks are free and intended to be connected to each other, before use, by connection means (7).

2. (original) Mat according to Claim 1, characterized in that the first and second tracks form successive half-loops which are imbricated in one another so that, in the longitudinal direction, there will be successively encountered, from the upstream end of the mat to the downstream end, a first track, then an alternation of two second tracks and two first tracks.

3. (original) Mat according to Claim 1, characterized in that the tracks form successive half-loops constituted by transverse parts and longitudinal parts of smaller length, the transverse part of one of the tracks being completed to the value of the width of the mat by an adjacent transverse part of the other track.

4. (original) Mat according to Claim 3, characterized in that the configuration of the tracks is such that they extend successively transversely and longitudinally from one end (A) of the mat to the other (B) while remaining parallel to one another.

5. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the tracks are fixed on at least one of the flexible support sheets (1, 1') by adhesive means.

6. (original) Mat according to Claim 5, characterized in that the adhesive used is of repositionable type.

7. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the two flexible insulating sheets (1, 1') are traversed by orifices (30, 32) disposed between the tracks.

8. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that one of the flexible insulating sheets (1, 1') is pierced with an orifice (3b) giving access to one of the ends of at least one track.

9. (original) Mat according to Claim 8, characterized in that the orifice giving access to a track is intended for the electrical connection of a flat conductor on said track.

10. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the metal film is an aluminium film.

11. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the width of the mat is of the order of 0.5 m.

12. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the width of the tracks is of the order of 2.5 cm, and their thickness of the order of 0.25 mm.

13. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the space

included between the tracks (3a, 3b) is equal to substantially half the width (e) thereof.

14. (original) Mat according to Claim 13, characterized in that the spacing of the tracks in the longitudinal direction is of the order of 1.5 cm.

15. (currently amended) Mat according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the spacing of the tracks in the transverse direction is of the order of 1 cm.

16. (original) Intermediate mat according to Claim 2, characterized in that it comprises two series of tracks associated in two's.

17. (original) Intermediate mat according to Claim 16, characterized in that there are successively encountered, in alternation from one end of the mat to the other:

- two first tracks of the first series,
- a first track of the second series,
- a second track of the first series,
- two second tracks of the second series,
- a second track of the first series, and
- a first track of the second series.

18. (original) Method for producing a flexible heating mat in the form of a longitudinal strip forming a breadth of given width, constituted by two conductive tracks (3a, 3b) supplied with electric current by their respective upstream ends (C, D) and which are trapped between two flexible, insulating support sheets (1, 1'), characterized in that it comprises the steps consisting in:

- fixing a flexible metal sheet (3) on a flexible, electrically insulating support sheet (1),
- cutting out the metal sheet (3) over at least its thickness, so as to form therein two heating tracks (3a, 3b), the upstream ends (C, D) of these tracks (3a, 3b) being intended to be connected to respective terminals supplying

electric current, and the downstream ends (E, F) of these elements (3a, 3b) being free and intended to be connected to each other, before use, by connection means (7),

- eliminating the peel (13) resulting from this cut-out,
- fixing a second flexible, insulating support sheet (1')

on the other face of the tracks (3a, 3b) so that the latter are sandwiched between the two support sheets (1, 1').

19. (original) Method according to Claim 18, characterized in that the peel is extracted by gluing on the latter a flexible tear-off sheet coated with a glue presenting an adhesive power greater than that of the metal sheet on the support sheet.

20. (currently amended) Method according to ~~one of claims 18 or 19~~ claim 18, characterized in that at least the cut-out step is carried out with the aid of a continuously operating rotary machine.

21. (new) Method according to claim 19, characterized in that at least the cut-out step is carried out with the aid of a continuously operating rotary machine.